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**Helping out Mother Nature**

The Minden Girl Guides conducted a litter clean-up for Earth Day. /submitted

# Carney named as Canada's Prime Minister

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

The people have spoken: Mark Carney is officially Canada's Prime Minister. In a nail-biting election where the polls kept Canadians on their toes, the Liberal Party has once again come out on top.

At the time of press with 99 per cent of polls reporting, it's looking like the Liberals will form a minority government, with 168 seats. 172 is the goal to hit in order to form a majority.

The Conservatives will stay in the official opposition role yet again, with Pierre Poilievre as the fourth consecutive leader to fall to the Liberals since 2015. Poilievre has also lost his seat as a Member of Parliament (MP) in his own Ottawa-based riding of Carleton to the Liberals, ending his nearly 20 year stint in the role.

"I chose to enter politics because I felt we needed big changes in this country, but big changes guided by strong Canadian values," Carney said during a media conference early Tuesday morning.

On the home front, incumbent Jamie Schmale has secured his fourth term as MP for Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes. He secured his spot with 42,056 votes, which translated to 56.8 per cent. "I am incredibly honoured and humbled to have been elected for a fourth term," said Schmale. "Your concerns, hopes, and values guided this

see NDP page 2

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# MH cautiously watches river levels

by JAMES MATTHEWS
*Times Staff*

Minden Hills remains in its state of emergency.

That was as of the township council's April 24 public meeting, and continues at the time of press.

Township council had its first meeting since a state of emergency was declared to deal with the aftermath from the accumulation of winter ice that brought communication and power disruptions in March.

The township has now surpassed 30 days since the declaration.

Making such a declaration enables municipalities to avail of certain provincial services and equipment to get through the emergency.

Minden Mayor Bob Carter said the township had access to broader emergency medical services from neighbouring counties and municipalities.

"And that goes on to many other types of services," Carter said.

It also allows the township to apply for funding when the emergency has passed.

"If we had any extraordinary expenses that were related to the disaster or emergency, we have the ability to claim from the provincial government to claim some monies," he said.

And it provides residents an avenue to possibly obtain funding for damage expenses their insurance policy holders won't pay.

Rain throughout the month of April raised the Gull River high enough to cover portions of the River Walk. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

"There are a number of programs that are made available to us and the community," he said.

Some nearby communities have been able to lift their state of emergency designation. Minden Hills has not because of concerns about how the weather event's snow and ice will contribute to the seasonal flooding this time of the year.

"This has been an unusual spring in many ways," Carter said. "Water levels are extremely high."

Municipal staff had worked for about a month before the storm with the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and federal Parks Canada in anticipation of possible flooding.

And then the storm happened, and as many as 200 properties remain without electricity.

Parks Canada has said it could be about three weeks before water levels are in the seasonal normal range.

Water levels on the Burnt River have peaked and already dropped. The biggest concern is with the Gull River that runs through downtown Minden, he said. The amount of water going down the Gull River is twice what it usually is this time of the year.

"The lakes above Minden are, for all intents and purposes, full," he said. "There's a certain amount of water that can flow down through the Gull River and it really comes down to how much rain you're getting.

"Unfortunately, we've found out that no matter who we try to influence, we can't change Mother Nature."

Complicating the issue is that trees and branches downed by the weight of ice is debris that can block ditches and culverts.

"If our culverts become filled, then the water goes over the top of the road," he said. "The roads are already saturated so it takes virtually no time at all for the road to potentially wash out."

Municipal Public Works staff have been busy inspecting culverts, he said, but there are many more of them than a person might notice or expect are out there.

Water is moving very fast and virtually every riverbank has been softened by rain and spring melt.

"Stay away from those waters," Carter said. "They're not your friend right now and things can change pretty rapidly. Extreme caution is required."

In a press release shared on April 29, Carter once again explained the reasoning for the continuation of the emergency status. He referenced the environment as currently "fragile", and noted that the township is diligently monitoring changes in weather patterns.

"The weather forecast includes high winds and thunderstorms early this week and, significant precipitation later in the week," he said. "Therefore, we need to be especially vigilant to react to any consequences due to the weather and to be prepared for anything."

# NDP loses party status, in search of new leader

**from page 1**

campaign every step of the way, and they will continue to guide my work in Ottawa."

From what is normally a true blue riding, Liberal candidate Nell Thomas kept polls tight throughout the race, but ended election night with 28,476 votes, from 38.5 per cent of voters. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to everyone who has supported us," said Thomas when she took to Instagram on election day, "whether by volunteering, sharing kind messages, or helping spread the word. Your dedication, generosity, and belief in what we are building together means more than we can express."

Despite minimal presence in the riding, the New Democratic Party's Aylea Teel managed to rack up 2576 votes, or 3.5 per cent, and the Peoples Party of Canada in the area received 937 votes, equating to 1.3 per cent.

On a national stage, trailing the Liberal's 168 seats, the Conservatives have secured 144, the Bloc Quebecois 23, the NDP at seven, and Green have confirmed one.

The NDP held 24 seats prior to the election, and due to the polarizing nature of the federal dispute, lost significant votes to the Liberal Party. With only seven seats, they have lost their official party status, as there is a minimum requirement of 12 in order to maintain their presence in the House of Commons. With the loss, longtime leader Jagmeet Singh announced he would be stepping down as the NDP representative.

Political analysts are saying that the Liberal win came at the expense of the NDP, with many voters jumping ship in an effort to strategically vote against Conservatives.

Singh lost in his own riding of Burnaby Central in British Columbia, before he took to the stage to announce his resignation. The party will now focus on building from the ground up, with an active campaign to fill the leadership position. "Obviously, I'm disappointed that we could not win more seats, but I'm not disappointed in our movement," Singh said during his resignation. "I'm hopeful for our party. I know that we will always choose hope over fear, and optimism over despair, and unity over hate."

There will not be another ceremony to swear Mark Carney into the role of Prime Minister, as it is a position he now maintains after replacing former PM Justin Trudeau. Current Cabinet positions will also stay in place, until further notice.

# Drug trafficking and firearms charges laid in Minden Hills

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged several individuals following an investigation involving firearms, drugs, and stolen property.

As a result of an ongoing police investigation, members of the OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), executed a search warrant at a residence on County Road 121 in the Township of Minden Hills on April 22, 2025. Firearms, ammunition, and suspected drugs were among items seized as follows: 68.61g of fentanyl, 70g of crystal methamphetamine, 14.04g of cocaine, 303 British Lee-Enfield long-rifl, .22 calibre Cooey long rifle, 303 British Mark three long-rifle, four pellet guns, four BB guns, nine rounds of .303 ammunition, 20 rounds of 30-30 Winchester ammunition, five operating scales, three cellular devices.

Various power tools including table saws, chainsaws, drills and batteries, industrial lights, fan, generator, Yeti cooler and an electric bike

As a result a female, 33 years-of-age, of the Township of Minden Hills has been charged with:

- Possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - three counts
- Breach of firearms regulation store firearm or restricted weapon - three counts
- Possession of firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order - thirteen counts
- Possession of property obtained by crime over $5000
- Knowledge of unauthorized possession of firearm - three counts
- Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition
- Fail to comply with probation order - two counts

The accused was held for a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay Ontario.

And further a male age 43 years-of-age, of the Township of Minden Hills has been charged with:

- Possession of schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - three counts
- Breach of firearms regulation store firearm or restricted weapon - three counts
- Possession of firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order - thirteen counts
- Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition
- Possession of property obtained by crime over $5000
- Knowledge of unauthorized possession of firearm - three counts

The accused was held for a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay Ontario.

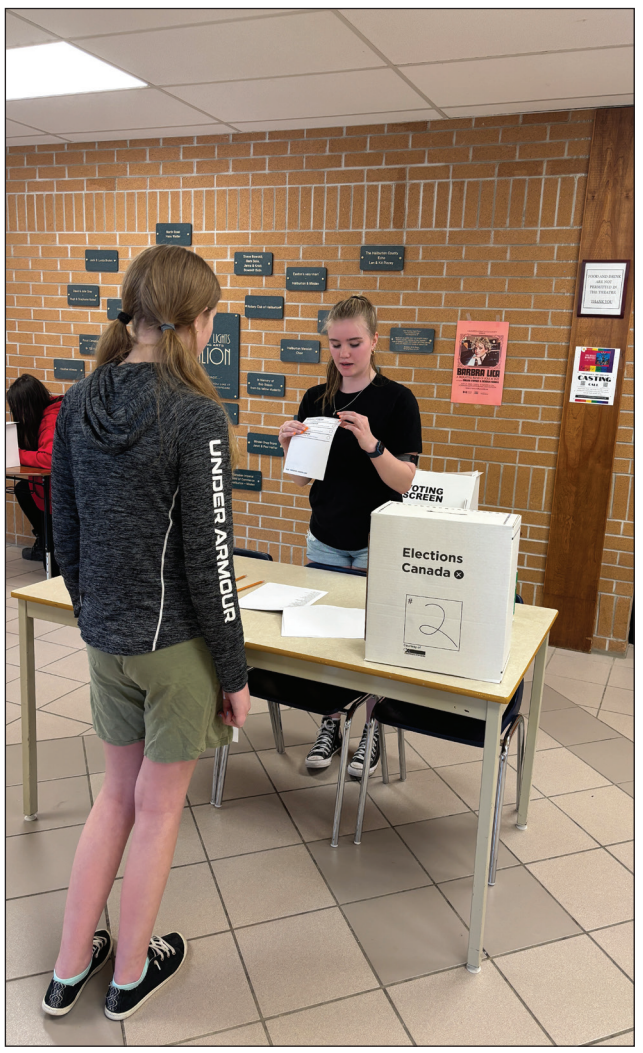
And further a male 43 years-of-age, of the Township of Minden Hills as been arrested and charged with:

- Possession of a schedule I substance
- Unauthorized possession of a firearm
- Failure to comply with undertaking

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date.

If you have any information about illegal firearms or the trafficking of illicit substances in Haliburton Highlands, call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or should you wish to remain anonymous, you can call the Kawartha/Haliburton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward up to $2000.

*Submitted*



Nearly 300 students from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School cast their votes on April 28 as a part of a nation-wide mock vote for secondary school students./ photos submitted

# Student mock election takes a different tone

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

While Canadians took to the polls on April 28 to cast their ballot for Canada's next Prime Minister, the students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School did the same. The mock-election encouraged students to learn about the representatives across the board, and use their voices in a practice vote. While the votes do not contribute to the overall numbers racked up by individual political parties, it was an opportunity for students to cast their ballots and feel heard in a nation-wide conversation.

Put on in collaboration with Elections Canada, student votes were available in all 343 electoral districts across the country. On election day, 870,340 student votes were reported from 5,900 schools. There were also 30,453 rejected ballots.

For Hal High students, their votes had a different tone than the results of the federal election. Overall, there were 264 ballots cast, with four spoiled ballots. The Conservatives won with 145 votes, followed by the Liberals with 66, the Peoples Party of Canada with 28, and the New Democratic Party with 21.

Overall, the Canada wide results of the student poll ended with the Conservatives earning 165 seats and forming a minority government, followed by the Liberals with 145 seats, the Bloc Quebecois with 18 seats, the NDP with 13 seats, and Green landing with two seats.

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**COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON**

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

**May 8 – Regular Council Meeting**
**May 13 – Special Council Meeting**
**May 29 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

**RECREATION & PROGRAMMING**

• Minden Hills summer camp registration is now open! Sign up online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.
• There is still limited space in some of our current kids' programs running now until June. Please reach out to Megan at mlocker@mindenhills.ca if interested.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Minden Hills Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON. The purpose of the Special meeting is to provide an additional Council meeting that is dedicated to a series of applications for the Planning Department. The Special meeting will consist of:
• 7 Public Meetings for Zoning By-law Amendments
• 1 Delegation from Eastern Ontario Regional Network – Communication Towers
• 9 Shoreline Road Allowance Application Reports
• 1 Mapping Updates Report

Please visit our website for further information.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

You are invited to First Responders Day 2025! On Thursday, May 1st from 3:00-7:00PM come visit the Minden Hills Fire Department at 12418 Hwy 35.

**MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE**

• *We're Still Talking*, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists Sandi Luck, Nadine Papp and Wendy Wood will be on display until May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

• *We Were Taught Differently (Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin)* an exhibit created by The MUSE will be on display until June 28 in the Welch Room. Learn about the residential school experience and the long-term effects on First Nations people through powerful images, text, video, archival material, and personal recollections.

• *Finding Dawn* (2006) – Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Thursday, May 1 at 1:00 PM. This documentary traces the stories of missing and murdered Indigenous women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside to the Highway of Tears. It exposes systemic violence while honouring Indigenous strength and resilience. The film is presented in partnership with the HCPL – Minden Branch and the National Film Board.
For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917 Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills

# MH looks at better ways to deal with property tax arrears

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
*Times Staff*

Minden Hills is owed a little more than $1 million in outstanding property taxes.

Wendelin Lonergan, the township's finance director, told council during its April 24 meeting that the municipality was owed about $1.4 million in taxes for 253 properties. Letters were sent Feb. 18 to each overdue taxpayer. They had until March 31 to make payment arrangements for the arrears.

That initial amount owed has been whittled down by about 19 per cent, Lonergan said. The total taxes collected thus far is $276,877.96.

"We're trying to work with people as much as possible," she said.

> We're trying to work with people as much as possible.
>
> — **WENDELIN LONERGAN, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

For payment commitments that are not adhered to, the property would automatically proceed to the tax sale process.

Taxes outstanding from the 2023 or 2024 billing periods are eligible to be collected by way of tax sale proceedings. Costs associated with the sale will be collected as taxes.

"This is not a process that we like to do, but we need to make sure the monies are collected," Lonergan said.

Several payment arrangements were made and will be monitored monthly to ensure that people are honouring their individual commitments.

As of the March 31 deadline, 69 accounts were removed from collections; 55 accounts were put on hold because of payment commitments; and 129 accounts are to be forwarded to tax sale proceedings.

Lonergan said it could take as long as a year to go through the tax sale process. Up to the time the property is registered to sold, taxpayers can make partial payments to get them out of that pool.

"We're always willing to work with the residents to do that," she said. "Each stage of the tax sale process within that year would add additional costs throughout the year."

Mayor Bob Carter asked if properties go to the municipality when payments are not made.

"Everything has to go through the tax sale process," Lonergan said.

If the sale process doesn't draw a bid on a property or if somebody made a bid but didn't complete the sale, then there's a vesting opportunity for the township.

A list of such properties, if any, will be brought to council later.

"So not a simple process," Carter said.

"I think the thing that's most upsetting is with all this money that's outstanding we've already paid our portion to the county and the school board," said Councillor Bob Sisson. "So we're left holding the bag for all the hundreds of thousands of dollars. I think that's very unfair for the taxpayers."

"It doesn't matter when you collect your taxes, the rules are that we as a municipality as of a certain date have to pay the school board and have to pay the county," Carter said. "It isn't great, but that's the way the rules are written."

Coun. Tammy McKelvey said one of the accounts states $514 is owed. The township will add a $2,500 fee to that right at the outset, she said. Then the municipality will incur various costs as part of the process.

"By the time you get to the tax sale, you realize this property has no value. It's not going to sell," McKelvey said. "To me, we need to analyze each one of these. I don't want to see us spend $10,000 that we can't get back because at the end of the process the property that has $500 worth of tax arrears on it has no value."

She said there's a file on the list that has a $50.52 arrears.

"Surely we're not going to do a tax registration on that," she said. "I think we need to establish a threshold or we need staff to come back with some further thoughts."

"We have to go through the tax sale process to be able to if it fails to potentially vest," Lonergan said. "If it ends up being vested, then there is the write-off portion to the county and the school board to recover some of those fees."

The process has to be followed, she said.

"I agree that sometimes it's a necessary evil to clean it up, so to speak," McKelvey said. "But not at such great expense."

Taxes that are deemed by the treasurer to be uncollectable can be written off by council. And that's a better way to deal with such properties, McKelvey said.

Carter suggested the issue be deferred and returned to council when a better way "to attack this" can be considered.

To McKelvey's suggestion, Lonergan posited that $5,000 would be an acceptable threshold to determine whether a tax sale is pursued.

"I think that would be a good number to start," she said. "Then we can move those files ahead and start trying to collect those taxes."

## Earth Day heroes

Minden Rotary Club members cleaned up along Deep Bay Road for Earth Day. /submitted

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# Big Hawk log chute's condition floats safety concerns

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
*Times Staff*

Replacing the dam on Big Hawk Lake is not in the current five-year plan and there is no timeline for the work.

It's more reasonable to look toward a 15-year window for the work.

Chris Card, the township's parks, recreation, and trails manager, said he recently met with Parks Canada officials to discuss work to replace the Big Hawk Lake dam log chute.

He said his initial intent was to have a fulsome discussion about the log chute. His federal counterparts had issues of their own they wanted to speak about.

"All of it is partly combined," Card said.

The lake's dam has property on each side. The municipal Crests of Kennisis Trail traverses the dam and winds up to the five viewpoints on Little Hawk Lake. But about the first 100 metres of hiking trail is on Parks Canada land, he said.

"They (Parks Canada) have made it clear that they want to get an agreement in place for everything that we have there, being the trail and the log chute," he said.

Work to replace stairs has been planned for this year and money has been allotted in the 2025 capital budget for the project. Further meetings with his federal counterparts will happen to spitball ideas for the traverse farther up the hill off the dam and toward the hiking trail.

Card doesn't expect that work to be any more extensive than handrail systems to be developed in the future. Parks Canada officials are drafting an agreement for consideration.

When the township can replace the log chute is dependent on when Parks Canada can replace the dam itself. Again, that won't be in five years.

Card said it was communicated that, although it is not determined, as the discovery process has yet to happen, a replacement dam may not be in the exact same location as the current dam.

"It might be a little bit upstream," he said. "It might be a little bit downstream. Or maybe it will stay in the exact same place."

"What does a little bit mean?" Mayor Liz Danielsen said.

"It's impossible to say," Card said.

Crews will need to install a cofferdam, which is a temporary enclosure in the water to create a dry working space. The log chute would need to be moved out of the way during construction and then re-installed afterwards.

Until the engineering commences, it can't be decided where that cofferdam will be installed.

Moving the dam to another location could make it necessary to alter the structure's design, the look of the chute, and the access to the trail. Given the uncertainty of the location of the future dam, council may want to consider its replacement as timelines become clearer. Until then, perhaps the chute's damaged logs could be removed.

The log chute continues to deteriorate and tending to the damaged logs may ensure the structure doesn't become too cumbersome to replace in the future, Card said.

Staff recommends engaging a consultant to look into next steps toward the removal of the existing damaged log chute structure. The intent of this discussion would be to determine the process and costs, he said.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said there's a fine balance between safety considerations and keeping the log chute.

"To take it out before we absolutely have to would be a shame," she said. "I also think that the further along in time we get from the time the chute is taken out to the replacement time, should council decide to wait until the (repairs) are done, the higher the chance that it will not be replaced at all."

If it could be as long as 15 years before the work begins, Dailloux said that would mean decisions would be made by two councils in the future.

"If there isn't that memory of it there, we run the risk that someone in the future will say it's not an important enough thing to put in, which would be a terrible, terrible shame," Dailloux said.

Dailloux believes the structure should be kept as long as possible, but not at the risk of safety.

"Have you looked at it lately?" Danielsen said.

"Last year," Dailloux said.

"It's in bad shape and it is deteriorating faster than I'd like to see," Danielsen said. "I know there has been a risk or a concern about kayaks going down the log chute which they have done in the past."

She said she doubts it would be possible to take a kayak down the chute now.

"But still, I just kind of wonder about the whole issue of liability," Danielsen said. "The longer we wait, the more it will cost to remove it."

The log chute continues to deteriorate and if a higher volume of water goes through and it breaks apart, there's a risk it could block water and cause nearby floods, said Angie Bird, the township's CAO.

"It could be years down the road, but we don't know that," Bird said.

Council decided to engage a consultant to look into the cost to remove the damaged log chute.

## Cemetery clean up kicks off in Minden

Candace McGuigan and John Daignault hold up an unopened beer bottle that was removed from a gravesite in Minden Cemetery. /THOMAS SMITH staff

John Daignault fixes stones around the grave of his father.


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# InOtherWords

*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

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# Change

I'VE SEEN a lot of sour people this morning with the Liberal win. It was a tight race, no one can deny that. Back and forth like a tennis match, until the numbers started to snowball.

And while we have Carney at the helm, as a community, nothing has really changed. Conservative Jamie Schmale has once again secured his spot as our Member of Parliament for the fourth consecutive term.

Kudos to both Schmale and Liberal Nell Thomas, who gave us something politically exciting to watch from our neck of the woods for the first time in years. The two candidates challenged one another with a level of depth that made even the card carrying captains question their votes.

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

For a brief period, during the early stages of ballot counting, our riding had a tinge of red starting to sweep over it. At that point, it was late into the night - my eyes glossy from staring at a screen in a darkened room while my family slept. It was a fleeting moment with Thomas taking the lead, before the comfortable Conservative votes started to trickle in.

This election was fueled by the word 'change'. I heard it from each and every side. "It's time for a change" said any given Conservative MP running for re-election (the irony). Change from the Liberals. Change from Conservatives. Change change change change.

But we didn't really change, did we? With the exception of some shuffling around and a few new faces, we're very much in the same place we were before. Conservatives on a small stage, Liberals on a big stage.

So we know we want change. What are we going to do about it? I would like to hold Jamie Schmale accountable.

I like Schmale. As a person and as a politician, he is easy to talk to, charming, and charismatic. The perfect recipe for a comfortable vote. Like that woolen sweater shoved to the back of your closet that's just too safe, too easy, too comfy to justify parting ways with.

So, the majority of our community has decided to keep him around. And now what? Have you heard, we want change?

Let's take this as an opportunity to enact that change. Talk to Schmale. He was elected by us, for us. That's his entire job - to represent the wellbeing and livelihood of this place we call home.

And I don't want to see him grovel at the conundrum of being plunked into yet another Liberal governance. In his position of power, he can make change. He can put forward ideas, speak to proposed bills, and absolutely, tooth and nail, fight for us.

It's easy to play the blame game. To address whatever outside factors the world may deem as limiting for progress to be made.

But a real Member of Parliament wouldn't let that slow them down. Power is power at all levels; it all comes down to how you wield it. If we are not seeing these 'changes' we all so desperately want, that comes down to the individual selected to represent us, to speak for us. Not whatever party is in charge. We have a direct line to having our voices heard. How are we going to use it?

Congrats to Schmale on another term, and to Nell Thomas for reminding us that we can make room in our wardrobe for items beyond those comfy woolen sweaters.

Let's see what kind of change we can make.

"Relax! It's not even dawn yet."

# Gauging water temperature

IF AQUATIC researchers ever needed to know the water temperatures on local trout streams, they would do well to consult the average trout angler – so long as he or she is wearing leaky waders.

As a scientific tool, leaky waders are generally under-rated.

Oh sure, an angler with new waterproof waders could also be of use – maybe more so – because if they can tell you water temperatures it probably means water levels are at least neck high too. And that's also good to know.

The only obstacle to communication would be the unit of measurement used. This would need some translation. You see, most temperature research is done in Celsius or Fahrenheit. But most trout anglers do not take thermometers with them. If they do, they forget which pocket of their trout fishing vest they put it in.

**STEVE GALEA**
*Beyond 35*

Finding something in a multi-pocketed trout fishing vest is considered by most anglers and researchers to be virtually unachievable – though there is another school of thought that says it could actually be done provided the angler does not mind being methodical and spending, at a minimum, several hundred hours of effort.

It is far more practical for the researchers to use angler descriptions of temperatures, for this can also be precise and, once understood, can easily be converted into Celsius or Fahrenheit.

For instance, the scientific world would call 32 degrees Fahrenheit or 0 degrees Celsius the temperatures water freezes at. But anglers experiencing this cold water inside leaky waders would record it as a casual "I don't believe I will be having any more children."

Furthermore, if a trout angler utters, "I can't feel anything below my kneecaps" that indicates the water temperature is precisely 40 degrees Fahrenheit or 4.4 degrees Celsius.

Likewise, when a trout angler reports, "I ... I ... I ... nn ... nne ... nneed .... to ... p ... ppp ... pppatch my w…ww….waders," the temperature is likely somewhere around 50 degrees Fahrenheit or 10 degrees Celsius.

Of course, as spring progresses and water temperatures warm, to indicate around 60 degrees Fahrenheit or 15.5 degrees Celsius, most male trout anglers donning leaky waders will hardly comment about it at all. But they will be very secretive about getting out of their waders and changing into dry underwear. If they must do so in front of their fishing buddies or spouses, however, they will simply mutter the word "Shrinkage."

At 65 degrees Fahrenheit or 18.3 degrees, a trout angler wearing leaky waders will mutter something like, 'I think I am finally going to upgrade to a new pair of waders," or alternately, "Anyone want to buy a pair of gently used waders?"

If you hear a fly angler lamenting that "there are no trout in these waters and there never have been" that means the water temperature is around 71 degrees Fahrenheit or 21.6 degrees Celsius, which is above the preferred water temperature for trout, and a perfect excuse for trout anglers.

On the highest end of the temperature scale, if that same angler nervously mutters, "I couldn't get my waders off in time" or "an aggressive bear came to the stream right across from me and kicked me out of my fishing spot" the temperature inside those waders is likely 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit or 37 degrees Celsius. This is typically a false reading.

Regardless, you definitely do not want to buy those waders if offered up for sale.

**InOtherWords**

*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

# Spring cleaning

WE HAVE now entered the all too brief time of year where the temperature outside is not too hot but not too cold, and when the mosquitos and blackflies aren't yet biting. Windows get thrown open and those of us who aren't winter warriors get our first prolonged dose of fresh air and sunshine in what feels like an eternity.

At my house we've been doing some spring cleaning, and a little preliminary yard cleanup. While the weather is good, I'm loath to stare at a screen unless trying to identify some new bug, plant, or rock that has caught my attention. However, there is a spring-cleaning task you may want to consider spending a little screen time on during those rainy days where not much else is getting done. Do you have a perpetual unread email badge, with a ridiculously large number that just seems to be getting larger? Is your inbox so full of promotional emails that you miss updates from your friends and family? Then it might be time to spring-clean your email.

One of the biggest steps you can take to managing your email is to unsubscribe from emails you no longer need. If you're like me, a pretty big chunk of your email might be promotional. These could be emails from retailers you have made purchases from, those incessant "load your offers" emails for various loyalty programs, or distribution lists you may not remember even signing up for (and you may not have). Many of these you can safely unsubscribe from. I like to use Black Friday as my Unsubscribe Day for these types of emails.

**ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING**

*Humans and Technology*

Also, remember that in many cases it's your choice whether you give out your email in the first place. I was taken aback during a retail experience recently where the cashier said, "I'm going to ask if you want to give us your email, but you don't have to." We're so conditioned just to say yes, that we forget we can politely decline.

Using labels or folders (depending on what your email provider calls them) can help organize emails that you want to hold on to. For instance, I subscribe to email newsletters that I know I won't read right away. So, I have a rule created in my inbox to label them as a newsletter. That way when I want to catch up, I can just click on that label to see my backlog of newsletters. If my backlog of newsletters gets too big, I can also mass delete them using that label (they're newsletters, they aren't that important). I have also used folders for volunteer efforts I've been a part of, but in this case it is to keep those emails all in one place and easier to access.

A note on mass deletion – don't just delete all your emails. Writer Merlin Mann introduced the concept of inbox zero in the early 2000s, and many took that to mean we should strive for zero emails in our inboxes, with some people going so far as to just delete everything. More recently, Mann has acknowledged that having a completely clear inbox is not practical and overwhelming to accomplish. Instead, pick one aspect of your email to focus on, like promotional emails or notifications, and clean those up. These are good tasks for a rainy day with a warm beverage.

Some email providers offer an archive feature. I like to use this feature for online purchase related emails. Many purchases come with at least 3 emails – an order confirmation, shipping notification, and delivery notification. I'll usually archive these as they come in so I can still find them, but they aren't cluttering up my inbox. Then, after a year or so (or after the warranty period), I'll go into the archive and delete those as part of a regular cleanup. There is the chance that the archive can just turn into a doombox where old emails linger semi-forgotten, but this only really becomes an issue if you start to exceed your email storage.

Don't forget, you get to decide how much you engage with your email. If you are the type that likes to manage emails as they come in, great. If that stresses you out, then maybe set specific times of the day that you work through the day's messages. People also have different tolerances for how their email is organized. If your inner peace isn't negatively affected by a triple digit unread number, that is also okay. If you prefer a place for everything and everything in its place, there are tools for that. Basically, if you can find what you're looking for when you need it, then the rest is down to personal preference.

## *Minden Memories*

In spring, lumberjacks used pike poles to guide winter-cut logs down rivers, riding the spring freshet and navigating rapids with skill and speed. This photo might include Haliburton residents Ed Robertson, William Watt, and Jack Bowen. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

**letters to the editor**

# *Housing thoughts*

**To the Editor,**

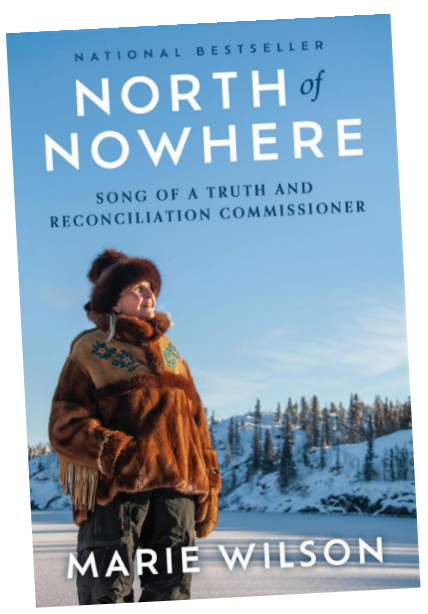
When you drive down to Bobcaygeon, on the west side of the road, just north of the four-way stop, there are two Habitat for Humanity bungalows. These basic homes are designed to be moderately priced.

The municipality has acquired some 92 acres intended for housing development.

I was thinking that if 40 acres of this land were made available, and four Habitat for Humanity type houses were built on each acre, 160 family homes would result. With quarter acre lots, there would be lots of room for children to play, pets, etc. I'm not suggesting that this be a Habitat for Humanity project - just that homes of that style could be considered. One hundred and sixty family homes would go a long way toward meeting the need for affordable housing in the County.

**Richard Smith**
**Koshlong Lake Road, Donald**

## HCPL's Book of the Week




*North of Nowhere* is a powerful blend of memoir and public history by Marie Wilson, one of the three commissioners of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Drawing on her experience as a journalist, mother, and spouse of a residential school survivor, Wilson shares the emotional and national impact of hearing survivors' stories firsthand during years of cross-country testimony. Her book emphasizes that reconciliation is not just a duty or obligation, but a meaningful opportunity for collective healing, understanding, and lasting growth for all Canadians.

*North of Nowhere* by Marie Wilson is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Volunteer Week

# Snowflake Meadows rescues those in need

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

A peek at some rescue pups brought in at Snowflake meadows before they found their safe and happy forever homes. The rescue organization supports all critters in need across the county and beyond. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Twenty dogs, one rescue horse, 10 cats, seven birds, two peacocks, one bunny, and a partridge in a pear tree?

That's just a day in the life of Kristyn Begbie, the owner and operator of the local not-for-profit animal rescue, Snowflake Meadows in Gelert. "That doesn't even include the 46 rescue dogs looking for fosters," she laughed.

The earliest memory Begbie has of rescuing a critter in need was when she was in Grade 3, and she saved a young dog. It's been a lifelong passion of hers ever since. "Animals don't have a voice," she said. "A lot of people look at them like they're property instead of part of the family, and I just feel like those animals need a safe place to stay."

While it's more than a full-time job for Begbie, she's able to stay afloat thanks to 20 volunteers who offer support when they can. "They all do different things," she said. "Everything from dog trainer to cleaning and running around, picking up donations."

Begbie shared that with the ever-growing and non-stop need for animal support across the county, she is always seeking more volunteers. "I'm always looking for more people," she said. "I am hoping to open up a dog food bank in Haliburton County, it's just a matter of trying to find a place, and find the right type of people."

As a not-for-profit, Begbie must rely on donations and fundraising in order to grow her vision. On May 17, Snowflake Meadows will be hosting their second annual Magical Festival Fundraiser, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 1089 Ritchie Falls Road, the home of Snowflake Meadows. With a bouncy castle, pony rides, face painting, live music, local vendors, and more, it's shaping up to be a fun-filled day for the whole family.

The event is designed to raise money for a large kennel onsite; a project Begbie has been chipping away at for years. "We want to actively try to house more dogs," she shared. "As the only not-for-profit rescue in Haliburton County, the need for rescuing dogs never stops here."

Begbie shared that she has rescued more animals than she can count over her years in the industry. "We could write a whole book about the different types of rescues I've seen in Haliburton County," she said. She noted that while some animals are abandoned and subject to cruel breeding practices, others are the result of seniors passing away, and their pets having no place to go.

As common practice, Begbie ensures that every animal that is adopted from her rescue is spayed or neutered prior to adoption, to prevent any unwanted litters or unfair breeding practices for the animal.

"We want every dog to have a good shot with their new family," she said. "They should be a part of the family."

For more information on how to volunteer with Snowflake Meadows, or questions about the upcoming fundraiser, contact Begbie at 289-338-3429.

Having a Community Radio Station in Haliburton County is only possible because of Volunteers. Thanks for showing up and keeping our community informed and connected.

Each of you are truly amazing -
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# Volunteer Week

The Austin Sawmill Heritage Park is one of many projects that the Kinmount Community Volunteer Management Committee has completed. Their goal is to beautify Kinmount and keep it as a prestigious destination. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

## Community volunteer management committee keeps Kinmount beautiful

by **THOMAS SMITH**
*Times Staff*

Whether it is on a chilly spring day or in the heat of the summer, chances are that you have spent an afternoon visiting the Austin Sawmill Heritage Park in Kinmount or wandered into the Kinmount Tourist Information Centre to see the happenings of the area.

With an outpour of community support and donations, the Kinmount Community Volunteer Management Committee is in a frenzy of preparation for their annual dinner and auction.

The Kinmount Community Volunteer Management Committee was originally formed by 12 local volunteers who teamed up together to refurbish the sawmill in Kinmount, a proud example of local history that survives to this day.

The group established a museum allowing visitors to explore the history of the sawmill and view the chronology of its life in Kinmount.

Simply put, the committee's mission is to beautify Kinmount and sustain its image as one of the finest towns to visit. The committee puts flowers up during the warmer months, Christmas decorations in the winter, and colourful adornments around Easter. They are also responsible for maintaining public washrooms, managing litter, and organizing special events in Kinmount.

The original volunteer group changed their name after becoming directly supported by the City of Kawartha Lakes' Parks and Recreation Division.

"They are wonderful to help and are a great support," said Diane Austin, chair of the Kinmount Community Volunteer Management Committee.

Austin says that members from other service groups are represented in the committee including the Lions Club, Legion, and the . The club makes sure not to step on each other's toes with events and communicates with each other regarding events happening in Kinmount.

"Volunteerism is the very best thing for your being," said Austin. "To be a volunteer is a very positive thing in your life."

Austin says that tickets for their dinner and auction event sell out every year. The past event included a live auction, silent auction, door prizes, and a game of chance for people to play.

"The food is wonderful," said Austin.

Businesses from all over Ontario expressed their desire to donate items and support the committee. Items that were up for auction included tickets for the Ottawa Haunted Walk, Upper Canada Playhouse, Baseball Hall of Fame, and National Art Gallery passes.

"The people that give, give from their hearts," said Austin. "People can see what we do."

All of the money raised from the fundraising event will be invested towards a community development grant. Fifty per cent of the funds that are contributed will be matched by the City of Kawartha Lakes, says Austin.

This year's 28th annual dinner and auction took place on Saturday, April 26 at Galway Hall. Former councillor Pat O'Reilly was the auctioneer.

"In a tiny town, you couldn't do this without many people supporting you," said Austin. "The things we can do, everybody benefits. It is not hard to see the excitement around this big event and have people want to become a part of the success story."

The City of Kawartha Lakes is currently looking for volunteers to join the Kinmount Community Volunteer Management Committee. Volunteering with the committee is a great way for people to meet others, share their talents, support local community centres and parks, and make a difference in your community.

For those interested in volunteering with the Kinmount Community Volunteer Management Committee please email the City of Kawartha Lakes' Parks and Recreation Division or call 705-324-9411 and use the extension 1335.

Minden Rotary

*Thank you to our valued Volunteers and Members!*

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**info@mindenrotary.ca**

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HHHS
Thank you

**This National Volunteer Week, Haliburton Highlands Health Services extends our deepest gratitude to each and every one of our incredible volunteers. Your time, energy, and dedication make a lasting impact, and we are truly inspired by your commitment to helping others. Thank you for being the heart of our community—your efforts do not go unnoticed!**

**Interested in Volunteering**
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**volunteering@hhhs.ca**

Volunteer Week

# Minden food centre seeks support

by THOMAS SMITH
*Times Staff*

Over 15 years ago, Gary Stoner volunteered with the Minden Community Food Centre to put something back into the community.

Stoner leads the volunteer team involved with the Community Gardens, located at the Minden Fairgrounds on Bobcaygeon Road. Currently, all 20 of their plots have been spoken for. The purpose of these plots is to provide garden spaces for those that do not have access to gardens with their current living situation. Some of the producers that utilize the garden spaces even donate a portion of their crops to the food centre.

Stoner says that his favourite part of being a volunteer with the Food Centre is the happiness on clients' faces after they come in.

"If somebody is interested in gardening and a leadership role, we would love to have you," said Stoner.

The volunteer organization also collaborates with the Haliburton County Public Library programs to teach about gardening to youth and works with the Haliburton County Master Gardeners for their seed exchange workshop.

The food centre also provides hot home-cooked meals for clients. With the rising costs of living, families are encouraged to stop in and utilize the food from the centre to make ends meet.

Whether it is for families, seniors, or individuals, the food centre plays a vital role in putting food on the plates of those in Minden and beyond, with the centre's outreach stretching to Kinmount and Algonquin Highlands.

In addition to food services, the food centre also collaborates with Central Food Network (CFN) by offering their tax clinics upstairs, hosting SIRCH's Mom and Tot programming, and will also be hosting the Canadian Mental Health Association's community outreach initiative in the future.

> "If somebody is interested in gardening and a leadership role, we would love to have you"
>
> — GARY STONER

In 2025, the Centre hopes to offer a shopping model for their clients to choose what food they would like to eat.

The Food Centre runs entirely off of financial donations from the public and through its volunteers.

Since 2020, the number of clients relying on the services of the Minden Community Food Centre has been steadily growing and does not appear to be slowing down.

"We are there to help people out with food," said Jean Munroe, manager of Minden Community Food Centre. "It's the least we can do to help people get through the month."

The Minden Community Food Centre is always open to individuals who would like to volunteer their time and give back to the community. For those interested in volunteering with the food centre, please visit their website at mindencommunityfoodcentre.ca/volunteer.

# HHHS volunteers contribute to community vibrancy

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

Sometimes volunteers work behind the scenes. Other times, like at Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), the vibrancy of volunteers is intrinsically interwoven into the everyday lives at the facility. "Many of our community services rely on volunteers to run," said Lauren Ernst, the communications and employee experience lead at HHHS, "and we would be hard pressed to continue those programs without our dedicated volunteers."

HHHS currently works with over 250 volunteers across the organization. They are involved with programs such as Meals on Wheels, transportation services, adult day programs, hospice, friendly visiting and security checks, social recreation, and the Diners Club.

For the long-term-care portion of HHHS, the organization relies on volunteers to run programs such as Bingo, crafts, baking, and gardening, or weekly visits with residents. "We also have numerous volunteers who dedicate their time playing music and entertaining in our long term care homes," said Ernst.

Beyond the care facilities, HHHS works with volunteers for programs such as physiotherapy support, IT, and community outreach. There is also a Minden Auxiliary, who runs the gift shop out of the newly formed Minden Health Hub, and fundraises through different avenues, all in the name of HHHS. Ernst noted that the board and committee members for both HHHS and the HHHS foundation are volunteers, and of course, instrumental in progressing the organization forward.

The lack of volunteers would surely be noted in areas such as the long term care homes, said Ernst. "Our long term care homes would not have the same vibrancy if volunteers did not spend time enriching our residents' lives," she said.

Ernst shared that the volunteers with HHHS are aligned with the vision of the organization, and how it is vital for the health of the community as a whole. "We are so thankful to have so many dedicated volunteers who share their time with our organization," she said, "making the lives of our clients, residents, and patients better."

> "In general, volunteers enliven HHHS with their energy, their insights, and their dedication to making HHHS a successful organization"
>
> — LAUREN ERNST

If anyone is interested, HHHS is welcoming new volunteers to their organization, and all are encouraged to visit www.hhhs.ca for more information. "In general, volunteers enliven HHHS with their energy, their insights, and their dedication to making HHHS a successful organization," said Ernst. "It would be a huge loss if we didn't have people volunteering with us."

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Volunteer Week

# Canoe FM volunteers continue to give back

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

If Canoe FM did not have their 120 volunteers, our community would notice.

It would suddenly get a whole lot quieter, that's for sure.

"We've got a good team," said station manager Roxanne Casey, "we've got people who help with every part of the studio."

When we think of radio volunteers, our minds naturally go towards the on-air voices. And while Casey has over 60 radio personalities airing over the local waves, there are many behind the scenes roles that make the station tick.

"Marketing, music, programs, and governance committees," said Casey, to name a few. "There are also people who work on music. They go into each song, and tidy it up a bit."

One of the large projects Casey and her dedicated team of volunteers has recently completed is the newly launched 97.1 station in Minden. "There was a dead zone in Minden," she noted. "So we've been trying for years to get that filled, and we are finally able to do it."

A group of dedicated voices and volunteers from Canoe FM. The radio station works with over 120 volunteers, and are looking to expand that number. /submitted

On that note, Casey shared that they are actively seeking volunteers who have an understanding of some of that behind-the-scenes work. "We're looking for people with really strong, technical skills," she said. "All the behind-the-cabinet kind of stuff." She also noted that the station continues to seek on-air volunteers as well, to run programs and sessions for listeners.

The not-for-profit station's biggest undertaking is their immensely popular Radio Bingo. Hosted one night a week, the on-air gameshow draws crowds from all over the world. Many tune in weekly, hosting large groups together. During their slower seasons, the station sells over 500 Bingo sheets a week, and in the summer, they sell thousands each week.

"Radio Bingo is a huge commitment," said Casey. "There's a group of volunteers who do Bingo each week. Each sheet needs to be individually stamped with the dates, put together in pouches, and delivered to stores. We've got a great team."

Half of the proceeds from Radio Bingo goes back into the station, to be spent on broadcasting technicalities, and the other half goes towards a selected not-for-profit in the community. This includes local food banks, animal shelters, and service clubs. "In our past ten years, we have donated over $600,000 into our community from Radio Bingo," said Casey. "I think that's pretty impressive."

# Make a difference through guiding

by **THOMAS SMITH**
*Times Staff*

To the second Minden Girl Guides, Carol Mowat is named Rainbow.

Mowat has had a lifelong journey of guiding. From Brownies (now called Embers) to Girl Guides, Mowat was involved with the Minden group for several years of her young life.

It all came full circle after she moved out west and her best friend suggested that they volunteer with the local Sparks unit in Banff, Alberta. After returning to Haliburton County 15 years ago, a chance encounter with Guides selling cookies at the Home Hardware led to her returning to the program as a guider.

After finally settling in the County, Mowat is now a guider for the second Minden Girl Guides. Their group includes Sparks, Embers, Guides, and Pathfinders. Currently, the group has 18 members through all the levels of enrolment. Mowat is also involved with the first Haliburton Girl Guides.

Currently, the second Minden Guide group has three core leaders including Mowat, Margaret Thompson, and Amanda Austin.

Typically, mothers join as guides while their children are in the program, says Mowat. However, all adults are encouraged to volunteer their time with the program, even if you do not have kids.

Mowat says that guiding is one of the most rewarding things in her life.

As a guider, you plan a variety of programming for the kids including crafts, science experiments, community projects, outdoor games, and environmental awareness and stewardship.

Of course, many of the activities are planned towards earning badges. Some badges include knot tying, science experiments, and performing.

One of Mowat's favourite aspects of being a guider is the kid's innate curiosity and watching their ideas take shape when they participate in the programming you designed.

When showing the kids different art-forms such as sewing, Mowat makes sure to allow them to experiment creatively and put care into their art. Often, they discuss the meaning of words and phrases that are incorporated into their creations.

The guiders also collaborate with the kids to hear what kind of programming they are interested in.

Some of the community projects that the second Minden Girl Guides have contributed included a quilt project with Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre, cleaning up litter in Minden for Earth Day, and visiting Walkabout Farms and learning how to support them.

"We try to have fun all the time," said Mowat.

With camps throughout Ontario and events at places like Casa Loma, Mowat says that being a guider makes you a part of their sisterhood.

"It doesn't matter how old you are, you're always welcome in the sisterhood," said Mowat.

With the Haliburton Guiding group, Mowat even had the opportunity to go camping in the winter, an experience that she will never forget.

"As a guider, you get the opportunity to try new things, even as an adult," said Mowat.

From watching the kids play their favourite board games like Apples to Apples, or playing tag outside, to watching the kids grow up and inevitably move out of town, becoming a guider provides great value and opportunities not only for the kids, but as an adult volunteer.

The Girl Guide's classic chocolate and vanilla cookies are also currently on sale,with the mint cookies coming in the fall. Sales from their cookies go directly back to their program helping them buy supplies, badges, gear, and paying to go camping.

For those interested in becoming a volunteer with Girl Guides in Haliburton County, please visit www.girlguides.ca and submit an application.

For those that are interested in helping with the programming or have an interesting skill that you would like to demonstrate or teach to the girl guides, you are highly encouraged to get in touch by emailing carol_mowat@yahoo.com.

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# So, you voted - now what?

by JESSICA SLADE
*Special to the Times*

You checked your voter registration, showed up to the polls, and cast your ballot in the 2025 federal election. You participated in something powerful - a cornerstone of our democracy.

But now that the ballots are in (or at least being counted), what comes next?

It's a question many Canadians are left with after election day. Democracy doesn't stop once your ballot hits the box - in fact, that's only the beginning.

Stay informed - even after the results roll in

By the time you read this, we may have a good sense of who will form the next federal government. But Elections Canada will still be finalizing results, especially in close ridings and among special ballots - including those mailed from abroad, cast from remote areas, or completed on Indigenous reserves.

As you wait for the full picture to emerge, take time to explore how your riding voted. Did your preferred local candidate win? If not, who will represent you in Ottawa? Look them up. Learn their priorities. And don't be afraid to reach out - your Member of Parliament works for you, whether you voted for them or not.

That's one of the strengths of our system: MPs represent all constituents in their riding, not just their supporters. You don't need to agree on everything to raise a concern or share what matters to you. Most MPs have offices you can contact, and many host community events or respond to emails. Take them up on it.

**What if you're disappointed?**

Not everyone will see their preferred candidate - or Prime Minister - win. That can feel discouraging, especially in a year when political divisions have run deep.

It's okay to feel frustrated. But your voice still matters. Your role in democracy didn't end on election day. You can still advocate for the issues you care about, hold your MP accountable, and work toward change in your community.

Living in a rural riding like ours, it can sometimes feel like our concerns get lost in the shuffle. But I've seen firsthand how community voices - when consistent and organized - can still move the dial, even from places that aren't in the spotlight.

**Democracy is more than just election day**

Voting is one part of the process. Staying engaged between elections is where real change happens. Contact your MP. Attend a town hall. Follow legislation as it moves through Parliament.

Not sure where to start? Try OurCommons.ca to see how your MP votes and which committees they sit on. Sign up for updates from trusted, non-partisan sources. And if you're on social media, follow a range of perspectives - not just the ones you already agree with.

**Talk about it**

Politics can feel divisive, but it doesn't have to be. One of the most impactful things you can do is keep the conversation going - with your kids, your coworkers, your neighbours, and your friends. Civic literacy grows when we're willing to talk openly and respectfully with others.

**Get involved**

If you caught the civic bug this election, channel it - and you don't have to wait until the next federal vote. Ontario's next municipal election is in 2026, and local government has a significant impact on our daily lives - from roads to child care to community spaces.

Start paying attention to what's happening at the council table. Volunteer with a local cause. Join a municipal advisory board. And if you've ever thought, 'maybe I could do that' - keep that thought alive. Local elections matter, and they need local leaders who care.

**In short?**

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# Public health unit seeks person exposed to rabies in Lindsay

by JAMES MATTHEWS
*Times Staff*

Public health authorities are looking for a person they believe may have been exposed to rabies March 14 in the Lindsay area.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit is asking for the public's help to locate that person. A press release issued by the unit didn't say if the person was a man or a woman. The individual who handled the bat is not in trouble but is being asked to promptly contact the health unit by calling 1-866-888-4577 extension 5006 to confirm if exposure by bite or scratch occurred and to determine if they need to seek immediate medical attention. The rabid bat was handled and moved from the road and placed on a tree at the corner of Kent Street West and Adelaide Street in Lindsay at about 5 p.m.

The bat was then transferred to a wildlife sanctuary where it showed signs of illness. The bat was sent for testing and it has been confirmed to be positive for rabies. "This serves as a reminder to our community to please stay away from bats and other animals that can carry rabies," said Richard Ovcharovich, the unit's environmental health manager. "Humans are at risk of infection if they've been bitten or had direct contact with an animal's saliva, through open wounds or scratches." Rabies is a deadly viral disease that affects the central nervous system of warm-blooded mammals, including humans. The most common transmitters of the disease in Ontario are bats, foxes, skunks, and raccoons. But infected pets and other domestic animals can also spread rabies.

Rabies can be transmitted to humans when there is contact with the saliva of an infected mammal through a bite, scratch, or licking an open wound. If you see a raccoon, skunk, bat, or other wild or stray animal that's dead, sick, or acting strangely do not touch or go near the animal and contact animal services.

Public health officials urge people to go to their family doctor is they've been bitten or had direct contact with a bat. The public health unit should also be notified.

Direct contact is defined as the bat touching or landing on a person. If you find a bat in your house but there is no direct contact, no one was bitten or scratched, open windows and doors in the area to the outside, close off the rest of the house, keep people and pets away, turn off lights and leave the bat for a few hours to allow it to leave.

If it does not leave, call an animal control or a pest control company for assistance. The bat will need to be humanely euthanized and tested for rabies.

When there is no direct contact with a bat, the risk of rabies is extremely rare.

If there has been direct contact from a bat that is discovered in your home, do not attempt to capture or kill the bat yourself.

If you have bats living on your property and want to remove them, contact a professional pest control company or wildlife removal company.

If you discover a bat outdoors that is injured, acting strange or dead, do not touch it.

As bats can transmit the rabies virus to dogs and cats, ensure your pets are up to date on their rabies vaccinations and keep dogs on a leash under your control.

If bat-proofing your home yourself, carefully examine your home for holes that might allow bats entry then take steps to seal those holes.

For instance, caulk any openings larger than a quarter inch by a half inch, ensure all doors to the outside close tightly, and use window screens, chimney caps, and draftguards beneath doors to attics.

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The Times

# To sleep or not to sleep? It shouldn't be a question

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

Everyone sleeps, right?

Wrong. Over half of Canadians have reported trouble with their sleeping; including getting to sleep, staying asleep, or being sleepy throughout the day.

With the average adult spending over one third of their lifetime in the workforce, this constant state of drowsiness plays its part.

That's where Kelsey Sharpless and Joelle Hill come in. "We are really working on bringing information on sleep and mental health into the community," said Sharpless, a registered social worker and psychotherapist, based out of Minden. "There is such an interconnectedness between mental health and sleep," agreed Hill, a certified sleep consultant.

Sharpless and Hill have paired up to bring the topic of sleep to the forefront across the community. The two specialists have their own practices, but were often connecting over referrals. They started to see some overlap in the needs of their clients; namely around sleep, and the impact it had on mental health in the workplace.

Through their research, it was noted that the top four stress symptoms that cause missed work days were fatigue, sleeplessness, aches/pains, and high anxiety. "With difficulty sleeping, it will impact your daily functioning," noted Hill. "So we try to target employers and organizations to see how it impacts the workplace."

The duo have taken their information on the road with a 60 to 90 minute presentation in an effort to bring sleep hygiene to the forefront. They have connected with multiple municipalities, the Ontario Early Years Centre, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Scotia Bank, and the Minden Animal Hospital, to name a few.

Joelle Hill and Kelsey Sharpless have started offering programs to effectively showcase the link between proper sleep and workplace wellness. /submitted

From those organizations, 94 per cent of attendees would recommend the presentation to others, and 92 per cent stated that the presentation increased their understanding of individual and/or workplace wellness.

The issue with a lack of sleep is that it creates a vicious cycle, or a negative feedback loop that can simultaneously worsen mental health and sleep. Stress and worry can lead to declining mental health, which then leads to insomnia and sleeplessness, then feelings of fatigue, which results in difficulty focusing, and looping back to stress and worry. And the cycle continues.

"We talk about ways to manage anxiety by recognizing strategies for helpful thinking," said Sharpless. "When we are dysregulated, we use mindfulness as a strategy for mental health."

Hill noted that everyone is subject to a 'bad night' on occasion, "myself included," she laughed. "But there are different sleep drivers such as iron levels, consistent schedules, and factors around sleep pressures that contribute to poor sleep patterns. "There is a very strong connection between depression and insomnia," she said.

Sharpless shared that when they ask a group about concerns around sleeping, "a room full of hands shoot up," she said. "They're glad to have us there, to look at some solutions for them."

Some healthy habits that contribute to a good night's sleep are 20 minutes of movement a day, balanced eating without shame, journaling, and consistent self-care, to name a few items. The presentation also dives into methods of working around supporting factors for sleep, and how to develop safe and healthy routines to maximize that crucial need for sleep.

Once the initial presentation has taken place, Sharpless and Hill offer follow-up conversations, which include consultation, evaluation, and one-on-one support.

To book a presentation for the workplace, contact kelsey@kelseysharpless.com.

To learn more about the services and offerings, visit www.ksharplesscounselling.com and www.hillfamilysleepsolutions.com.

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# Minden Cat Angels seeks kitty snugglers

by THOMAS SMITH
*Times Staff*

As I walk up to Minden Cat Angels at the end of Macintosh Lane, deer spring off into the forest. Goldfinches and a pair of pigeons flee from seed scattered along the ground and take refuge along the rooftop of the barn.

Animals of all kinds flock to Minden Cat Angels founder Don Kerr's home. A true safe haven for animals.

Minden Cat Angels began with Kerr, and the late Sonya Holliday-Rhodes and Vic Disik. The late couple would trap cats in Minden and bring them to Kerr for care, even before the charity was founded.

"Since I was a kid I have had cats," said Kerr.

Kerr came to Haliburton County 15 years ago from B.C. and in 2014, converted a hen house on the old Kernohan farm property into a shelter for cats.

The rescued cats have access to an outside catio, heated shelter building, and outdoor sitting space for guests to sit with cats.

"My heart is with cats," said Kerr. "I have always been a cat person."

Minden Cat Angels currently has 15 cats calling the shelter home. As I speak with Kerr, he tells me that there are 15 more on the way.

"Demand keeps getting heavier and heavier on us," he said.

Kerr says that he currently has four core volunteers with Minden Cat Angels. These volunteers help with bookkeeping, socializing the cats, maintenance on the buildings, feeding them, and helping them find their forever homes. In the winter, the number of volunteers dwindles further with driving conditions and the sun setting earlier.

Don Kerr stands proudly besides the cat shelter he built himself. Mallow, Tosh, and Spring peer at him from above. Minden Cat Angels is currently looking for volunteers to socialize their cats, emergency backup volunteers, and a volunteer team in Haliburton. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

"The most important job is to help socialize the cats," said Kerr. "Play with them and give them time."

Socialization of the cats they receive is crucial to lead to their adoption. Playing and speaking to the cats helps them come out of their shell. When they are playful and show their personalities, they are more likely to get adopted, says Kerr.

Even the most wild of cats have been able to be socialized and completely come out of their shell, and make friends with other cats within months of arriving, says Kerr.

The cats need to be adopted in order for them to bring in more rescues.

The majority of the cats in their shelter come from people dumping and abandoning their cats. When people purchase or adopt a kitten, they learn about the costs of neutering or spaying their pet and decide not to. When they inevitably start spraying around the house, they simply abandon them, says Kerr.

Six years ago, Minden Cat Angels received charitable status in Ontario allowing them to receive financial donations and support.

"We run entirely on donations," said Kerr.

The Minden Cat Angels rescue is in desperate need of more volunteers to assist with socializing the cats and running the rescue.

"We just ask that they like cats," said Kerr with a laugh.

From young to old, long haired to short, and cats of all colours, chances are that there is a cat that you can connect with at Minden Cat Angels.

"All 15 of our cats get along," said Kerr.

While the shelter does get the odd independent cat, all of them are social and friendly with each other, says Kerr.

"We have had so few volunteers that most of the cats go into hiding when someone comes in," said Kerr. "They just aren't used to new people."

If you are wanting to show cats love and affection and increase their odds of getting adopted in the future, Minden Cat Angels is graciously accepting new volunteers. For those interested in volunteering, it is recommended to get in contact through their Minden Cat Angels Facebook page.

In particular, the Minden Cat Angels are looking for volunteers from the Haliburton area. There is a sizable stray cat population in Haliburton and the Cat Angels are seeking volunteers to help take care of them, trap and spay or neuter them. They are also looking for emergency backup volunteers that can familiarize themselves with the shelter and be available in the case of an emergency.

As a registered charity, Minden Cat Angels also accepts food, toys, and monetary donations to support their cats and provide them with a better life.

An advocate for animals, Kerr encourages the spaying and neutering of your pets and building catios for your feline friends.

"Each cat has its own personality and is special," said Kerr. "This is what makes me happy, to see the cats come in, make buddies, and all get along in the shelter."

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*Answers on page 12*


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# Stanhope Soccer League seeks volunteers

by JAMES MATTHEWS
*Times Staff*

There is more than just hockey for kids to play in Algonquin Highlands. Run by the township, the Stanhopoe Soccer League is currently looking for volunteers.

Last year, 80 kids participated in the Stanhope Soccer League. The league is entirely run by a team of volunteers aged 14 and up.

With every team that participates, there is the need for both a coach and an assistant coach. Coaches are trained and certified through the National Coaching Certification Program.

The Stanhope Soccer League will run for eight weeks, from July 2 to Aug. 19. Youth aged from four to 11 years old are welcome to participate.

Sandra Rogers, recreation coordinator for Algonquin Highlands says that they have the capacity for up to 120 kids, as long as they have enough volunteers.

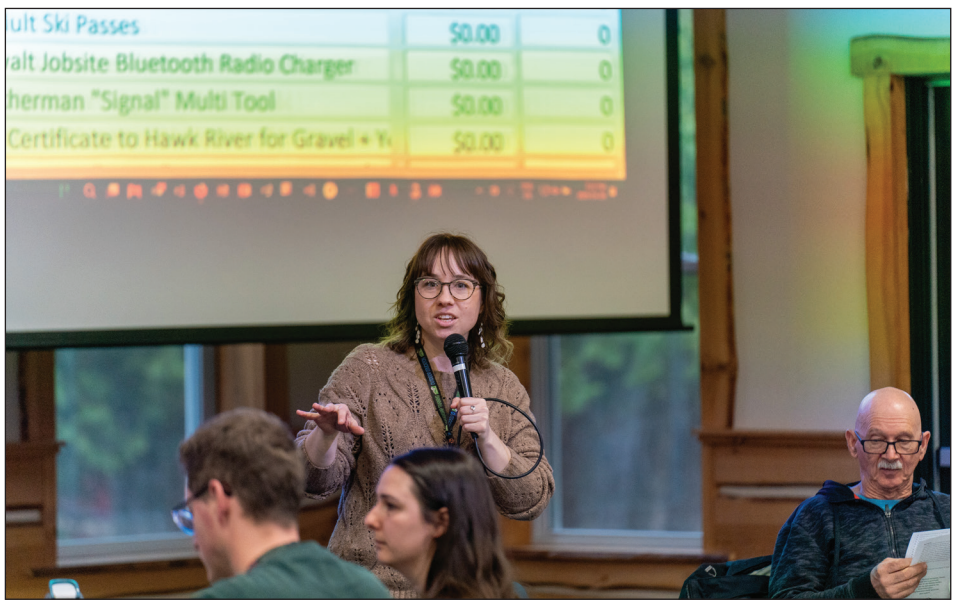
The Stanhope Soccer League runs on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Stanhope Park, located at 1095 North Shore Road.

There is a $47.15 fee for youth to participate. The cost of registration includes the eight week program, t-shirt, team photo, and an end of the season celebration.

If you are interested in volunteering as a coach, please get in contact with the program by emailing recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca or by calling 705-766-9968.

**A not so silent auction**

Camp Medeba held their annual auction fundraising night this past weekend, raising over $32,000 for camp programming through the efforts of the auction. /TIM YANO staff photographer



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## 650 OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory of*
**Reginald M. Gibbs**

*With sadness, the family of Reg Gibbs announces his death on April 23, 2025, at Highland Crest Long-Term Care in Minden, Ontario, at the age of 89.*

Reg was the beloved father of three children, Stephen (Alison), Chris, and Tim (Stéphanie), and the cherished grandfather of Isaac, Rachel, Sebastian, Sam, and Liam. He is survived by his sister Alice Chambers and his twin brother Ray Gibbs. He was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Terry Gibbs (née Link), his brothers Don and Lorne, and his sister Eileen Cruikshanks.

Reg was born in Haliburton County, Ontario, the son of the late Joseph and Reta Gibbs (née Cross). He spent his early years in Peterborough and moved to Carnarvon as a teenager. After graduating from high school, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving as a radar technician. Following his three-year term in the Air Force, he was employed in the private sector and stationed on Baffin Island at a remote Arctic radar site, part of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line.

After his time in the North, Reg returned to Ontario, married, and began a long career with Nav Canada, working as a radar technician supporting civil aviation. Reg and Terry raised their family in North Bay, Orangeville, and Shelburne, eventually returning to Carnarvon for their retirement. Reg was an active member of West Guilford Baptist Church and enjoyed singing choral music, making maple syrup, hunting, woodworking, and painting landscapes.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to the staff of Highland Crest for their care and kindness during the past two years, and to the staff of The Gardens of Haliburton, who provided a supportive and compassionate environment during the initial stages of Reg's illness.

A Memorial Gathering to Celebrate Reg's life will be held on Friday, May 2, 2025 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Minden Community Food Centre would be appreciated by the family.

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VOLUME III, No. 25
Wednesday, April 15, 1981

# Developer balks at $500 costs assessed by OMB

A decision as to who is responsible for the $500 in costs assessed against the township by the Ontario Municipal Board following a hearing March 10 was left hanging following a meeting of the Anson, Hindon and Minden Township council.

The hearing chairman had assessed that amount against the township application for approval for a zoning change, which would have allowed a trailer park development on property near Baf Lake. The development and by-law change had been requested by Virginia and Joe Gentle.

The OMB hearing chairman described the application as "unnecessary" as his reason for assigning the costs to the township.

Joseph Gentle, who appeared before the council April 8, said he did not feel he was responsible for the extra charges. He pointed out that the zoning change was rejected because the township's by-law was at fault, not his proposed development. Gentle said the township had been negligent in not knowing what would be required for the hearing and for having a zoning by-law which he described as "antiquated".

Members of the council have commented in the past that the township's zoning by-law was out of date and had been the reason for a number of adverse decisions by the OMB. Plans were made at the March meeting of the council to have a total review of the by-law started with the view to updating the entire document. That action was obviously too late for this hearing.

Deputy Reeve Doug Pritchard, who chaired the meeting as Reeve Lloyd Walker is on holidays in Florida for a month, told Gentle that he did not feel the municipality was responsible for the entire cost.

Councillor Ed Pergolas pointed out that the municipality was acting on the developer's behalf when it enacted changes to the zoning bylaw. "If that is the case," Gentle said, "then the municipality should be prepared to defend itself in an OMB hearing." Gentle had appeared on his own behalf at the hearing. He stated that he hadn't expected the hearing to be a formal court, but rather informal.

In the past the municipality has allowed developers to appoint a lawyer, at the developer's expense, to represent the municipality at such hearings. A tacit understanding appears to have existed whereby the developer, who desires to change a zoning by-law, would provide these services to further his own efforts.

Gentle said he was "bitter" about the entire procedure and requested time to "think it over" before accepting any responsibility for the $500 costs assessed by the OMB.

Councillor Lyle McKnight commented that the rezoning application was "lost" when the developer arrived without a lawyer. He noted that the objectors "picked holes" in the application and township by-law and the hearing chairman also did not look favourably upon the application.

**Suggests committee**

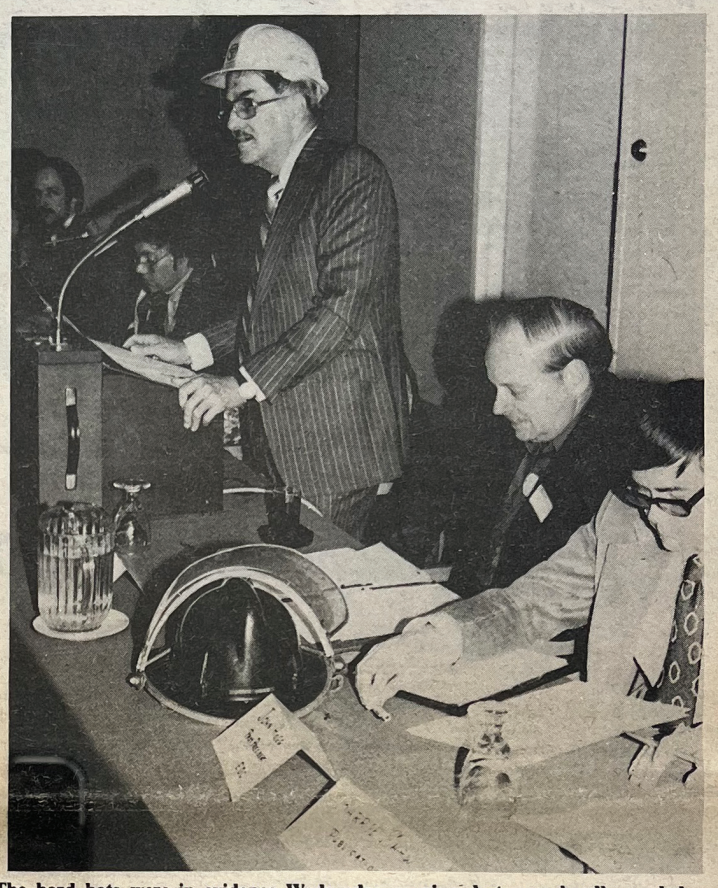
Prior to discussing the responsibility for the $500 costs, Gentle suggested a number of procedures to the councillors to ensure that future developments are not so easily defeated.

Gentle proposed that developers be provided with guidelines from the Ontario Municipal Board to assist in presenting their case, that a local planning committee be established to assess developments before they are approved by the council or are taken to the OMB for consideration. He also suggested that all members of the council should attend the OMB hearings so they can defend the provisions of the by-law if they are questioned. Several members of the council noted they were in attendance when this development was considered, but that no opportunity was given for them to speak in favour of the proposal.

Gentle said he was concerned about the future of development in the township, "if developments like these keep running into stumbling blocks placed in the way by a few cottagers."

Pritchard and McKnight agreed with the need for a planning committee to screen development applications, however, they also pointed out that this committee would only be an advisory body to

(more on page 2)



**The hard hats were in evidence Wednesday evening, but were hardly needed as members of the Chamber of Commerce board of directors faced very few of their members in a roast. Manager Bob Stinson addresses the audience while Chamber president Jim McLean and past president John Hogg, are on the right. For more on the roast, see the story on page three.**

# BIA board appointed

The board of management for the Minden Business Improvement Area (BIA) has been appointed by Anson, Hindon and Minden Township council. The appointment was made in a by-law enacted at the April 8 meeting.

Following the instructions of the Ontario Municipal Board, merchants favouring and opposing the establishment of the BIA have been named to the board. Selected from those in favour of the BIA were Stu Brandon, Gord Monk, and Jerry Pillsworth. Those who were opposed to

(more on page 2)

**These raqueteers from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, are members of the Badminton team which qualified for the Central Ontario Secondary School Association finals to be played this week. Those who lead their division could be taking part in the all-Ontario championship later this spring in Kapuskasing. Team members, seen here with their coach Frank Wallace, are, from the left, front row, Marla McNaul, Signe Tashlin, Pam Iles, Miriam Vanderwal and Paul Vuksic. Back row, Wendy Ballantyne, Tara Davies, Heather Kennedy, Andrew Shapiera, Paul Mayo, Tim Wood and coach Wallace.**

# Opposition to metric growing

Opposition to the imposition of the metric system in Canada is thriving in Minden and Haliburton County.

That fact was borne out this past week when a petition placed at the Brown Owl Restaurant opposing the conversion, has attracted 167 signatures in just four days. A number of similar petitions are circulating in Haliburton Village as well.

The document was started last week as the result of a plea contained in MP Bill Scott's column in this newspaper and the Haliburton Echo. In that column the local MP said that the federal government is attempting to introduce further metric regulations by Orders in Council. Using this route, the federal government has avoided having the matter brought to the floor of the House of Commons and the criticism of the opposition. Scott urged his readers to write to him and Andre Ouellet, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to express their dissatisfaction. Scott said he hoped the weight of public opinion would force the government to bring the matter to the House of Commons for debate.

Carol Miles at the Brown Owl, said that many of those signing the petition were opposed to the method the government was using to impose the metric system on the country. She said she will be sending the document to the local MP at the end of the next week so that he has it before April 28.

In the meantime, the petition will be available at the restaurant for those wishing to register their dissatisfaction with the way the federal government is implementing the new system of measurement.

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